

A KENTUCKY HISTORY MOMENT



ELLIOTT COUNTY: NAMESAKE IS ASSASSINATED JUDGE

Elliott County is named for John M. Elliott, a Virginia native who moved to Kentucky as a child. A lawyer and career politician, he served in the Kentucky legislature, the U.S. Congress and, after being expelled from the state legislature for Southern sympathies, in the Confederate Congress. Later a judge, Elliott's 1879 assassination by an avenging brother whose sister lost a land case made national headlines. The murderer, Thomas Buford, entered a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity. The jury found him guilty and sentenced him to life.

A statue of John M. Elliott stands in Boyd County. Photo by Peter Brackney used in his [Kaintuckeean blog](#).



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